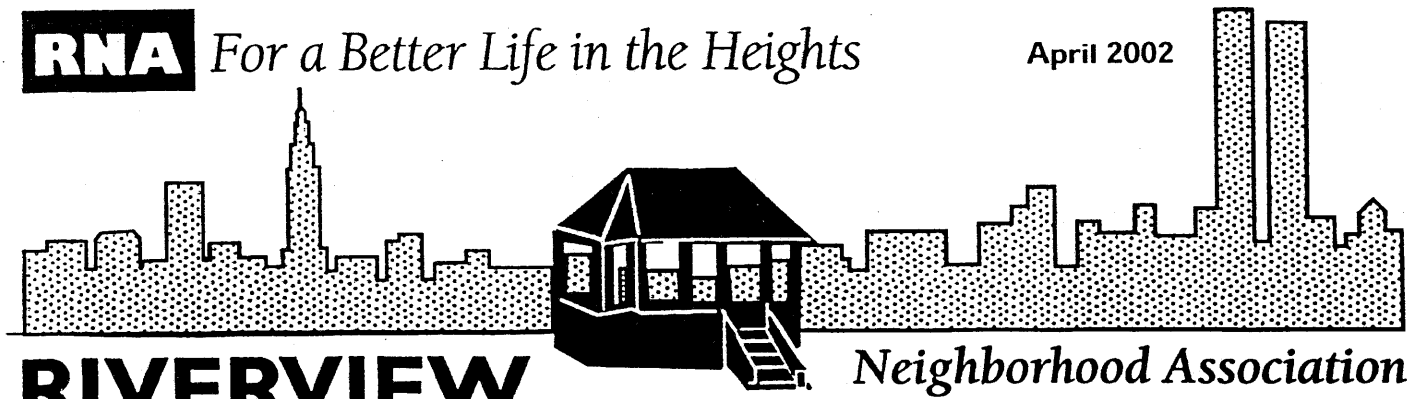
RNA *For a Better Life in the Heights*

April 2002



RIVERVIEW *Neighborhood Association*

469 Palisade Avenue, Jersey City, NJ 07307(201) 386-9481

RNA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION or ELECTED OFFICIAL

SPRING CLEAN-UP

This year, RNA will hold its semi-annual neighborhood clean-up on **Saturday, April 27th**. We will meet at the **Riverview Fisk Park** gazebo at **9:00 a.m.** In concert with the park clean-ups, the Jersey City Incinerator Authority will be providing two dumpsters during the weekend of April 26th to the 28th. The dumpsters will be located at **Griffith Street** and **Cuneo Place** (between. Palisade & Ogden Aves).

This past winter was very mild, and our neighborhood parks saw unusually high usage. As a result, our parks are very littered and in need of serious attention. On the agenda for this clean-up will be: **Riverview Fisk Park, Mountain Road, and Janet Moore Park**. If everyone gave an hour of their time, all four local landmarks could be cleaned-up by early afternoon.

For those of you who are distraught that you won't be available on April 27th, don't fret! There is still a way to make a contribution. In the past, the City has provided RNA with tools, bags, gloves, tee-shirts and a Clean Neighborhoods Grant. The grant was used to cover any incidental costs incurred as a result of the clean-up, and to provide lunch and refreshments to the volunteers as a thank-you for their hard work. This year, while it is unsure about the tools and bags, Jersey City has definitely suspended the grant program. So, if you are unavailable on April 27th, you can help by making a tax deductible donation to RNA in any amount to help cover the cost.

For those who can volunteer, RSVP to **Joe Sadowsky** at **201-792-4748**, so we can get a head count; and to help make a difference in spirit, mail your financial contributions to: RNA, 232 Ogden Avenue Jersey City, NJ.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Support RNA and the community by paying your annual membership dues of **$7.00 per person** at the April 9th meeting or sending a check, payable to RNA, to 232 Ogden Avenue.

Membership entitles you to the monthly newsletter and voting privileges, if you live within the RNA boundaries. The boundaries are **Ogden and Palisade Avenues** from **Cuneo Place to Congress Street**.

NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD

RNA held its annual elections for executive officers at the March 12th meeting. The election results are as follows:

CHAIRPERSON	Clif Steinbring
VICE-CHAIR	Margi Daly
SECRETARY	Maria Tuzzo *(incumbent)*
TREASURER	Vito Brunetti
SGT.-AT-ARMS	Doris Brown

RNA would like to thank the outgoing Board Members **Tim Gilliard, Joe Sadowsky** and **Vito Brunetti** for their service to the community and the Association. Joe has volunteered to organize this year's spring clean-up and Vito will serve as this year's Treasurer.

The outgoing Board wishes the new officers their support and good wishes to continue in RNA's tradition to improve the quality of life in the Heights. [*For the election results, see the Meeting Minutes.*]

18th ANNUAL PARK FAIR

Hurry, hurry, hurry! Be among the first people to volunteer for RNA's **18th Annual Park Fair** and **Flea Market**. This year's event will take place on **Saturday, June 1, 2002**, between the hours of **9:00 AM to 4:00 PM** in **Riverview-Fisk Park**. The raindate will be the following Saturday, June 8th.

We are looking for industrious individuals to help organize this event for: advertising, mailings and soliciting vendors. As in past years, we also need people on the day of the event to help: coordinate the supplies and tables, greet and coordinate the vendors, monitor parking in the park, serve coffee and refreshments at the Coffee Table, sell donated items at the Donations Table, and do the clean-up. Anything that you can do that day will be greatly appreciated.

This year, RNA is looking for talented people willing to showcase their theatrical talents to entertain the community. So if you can sing, dance, play an instrument or entertain in any reasonable fashion, you are welcome to contact either **Maria Tuzzo** at **(201) 659-2245** or **Margi Daly** at **(201) 963-6564**.

RNA needs your help to make this event successful. It's a great way to meet your neighbors and found out what is happening in your community.

NJT LIGHT RAIL STATION

On **Monday, April 8th,** the **Hoboken Environmental Committee** has scheduled a meeting with **New Jersey Transit** (NJT) concerning the Congress Street/9th Street Light Rail (LR) station. It will start at **7:30 PM** and take place at **720 Monroe Street** in **Hoboken.** This meeting will follow up on the prior one between NJT, **21th Century Construction Company** and RNA, held on January 14th, to discuss the impact this proposed facility will have on our community and the Palisade diffs.

Michelle Butchko of 21st Century recently confirmed that there will be a formal presentation of the design modifications and color scheme that was discussed at the RNA meeting.

The meeting's agenda will also include the existing difficulties experienced by downtown Jersey City residents with the LR.

COMMUNITYUPDATES

[Since the March RNA meeting, there have been no changes in the status of the **Cliff Side, Jehovah's Witness** or the **Hope Center** projects.]

WARD C. MEETING: On March 19th, at **Councilman Steve Lipski**'s Ward C monthly community meeting, two development projects were discussed that will impact our neighborhood. The first was the proposed super market slated for the area between Summit and Central & Jefferson and Laidlaw. No plans or hard information have been presented to the City's Planning Department, Councilman Lipski or any of the neighborhood associations. The neighboring residents are voicing strong opposition to any such project and are being supported by Councilman Lipski. The project would need variances from the existing R-1 zoning.

The future development possibilities of Reservoir #3 at Pershing Field were presented as "concept only". The new proposal would include space for a charter school as well as ball fields for little league, Pop Warner football and possibly soccer. Several years ago, the **Heights Coalition of Neighborhood and Block Assns.** was promised that this property would be only used for recreation and open space. That promise seems to have gone by the wayside. While most in attendance seemed to be in favor of recreational facilities, they were not inclined to see a charter school included in the package. The construction is contingent on the receipt of a five million dollar bond for Ward C. A suggestion to replace the school project with a senior citizen's center was well received. Members of the Heights Coalition present at the meeting agreed to monitor this project very closely.

GATEWAY PROJECT: On Monday, March 18th, the **Tri-City Sewerage Authority** denied the developers a sewerage permit for their two 17-story towers project to be built at 101 Marshall Street in Hoboken. On Friday, March 22nd, the developed sued the Authority and the City of Hoboken for an injunction against their decision to deny sewerage permits. **Judge Arthur D'Italia** adjourned the hearing till April 11th to allow the parties to negotiate.

On Wednesday, March 20th, several members of the Heights community, including the **Pohlmann Hall Condominium Assn.**, made public statements at the Hoboken City Council opposing this project. The following concerns were emphasized: the additional burden that the project would put on the existing traffic congestion in the area, the lack of the project's adequate parking will only exacerbate the parking problem in both Hoboken and the Heights, the extreme size of the variances for both height and lot coverage and a well echoed call for the need for regional planning for all future projects in the area because of these chronic issues of parking, traffic and infrastructure. There was also acknowledgement that the developer's apparently did not serve the required notice to both Jersey City and Hudson County for this project. Finally there was the local concern that the efforts to preserve the views of and from the Palisade Cliffs and the views from them would be destroyed by this project.

The two 17-story towers will house 326 residential units, two restaurants, a 25,384 square foot health club, 5,240 square feet of retail space and an enclosed parking garage that will rise seven stories with 431 spaces. The towers would rise approximately 158 feet each - 100 feet beyond the normal zoning for that area and almost sixty feet beyond the diffs themselves.

BERGEN ARCHES: On March 26th, the consulting firm of **Parsons Brinkerhoff** (PB) made a second "concept only" presentation to the New Jersey Department of Transportation's **Bergen Arches Task Force.** The PB study is to find the best possible use of the Bergen Arches corridor right-of-way to help solve Jersey City's transportation needs. Uses for rail freight, passenger light rail, bus and car are all under consideration.

As a way of background, the Bergen Arches right-of-way is an abandoned railroad corridor just less than a mile long that cuts through the Palisades between the Journal Square and Heights sections of Jersey City. Trains last used it over 30 years ago. The Bergen Arches runs parallel to Rt. 139 between J.F. Kennedy Boulevard near Tonnelle Avenue to the west, and Palisades Avenue on the east. The Bergen Arches lie in an area that includes many transportation facilities, including Route 1&9, Route 139, I-78, the New Jersey Turnpike, the Holland Tunnel, the PATH subway system, the Hudson Bergen Light Rail system, NJ Transit commuter rail lines, and various freight rail lines and yards.

The purpose of the Bergen Arches Study is to determine the best use for this valuable right-of-way, including a solution for the area's transportation needs.

Even though this was not a public meeting, PB did

Eighteenth Annual Park Fair & Flea Market

Saturday June 1st
9:00am to 4:00pm
(rain date Saturday June 8th)

Riverview-Fisk Park
(Ogden and Palisade Avenues between Griffith and Bowers Streets)

Sponsored by Riverview Neighborhood Association

For more information and vendor applications:
Call **Maria Tuzzo** at **(201) 659-2245**

take comments from the public. Major opposition was expressed about the proposed use of 6th and/or 11th Streets in the Hamilton Park area for vehicular traffic from the Bergen Arches into Newport. The use of 6th and/or 11th Streets, then across Washington Blvd. to 18th Street/Hoboken Avenue would create a traffic "loop". Manhattan Avenue/Tonnelle Avenue and the St. Paul's extension on the Western Slope are also under study as part of this project. Further details will be discussed at RNA's April 9th meeting.

For more background information, visit the NJ DOT web site: *http://www.state.nj.us/dot/roads/arches/.*

Written by Clif Steinbring, Maria Tuzzo and Vito Brunetti

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND:
THE BOOKMOBILE
FROM THE JERSEY CITY FREE LIBRARY

The Library will issue anyone a library card if they do not have the new yellow and blue card. The person will need some evidence of address or employment or school registration.

The lending periods are: books for one month and magazines for two weeks. If what you want is not on the Bookmobile, you can request it. The season schedule for **Riverview-Fisk Park** is following **Sundays, from 3:45 to 4:30: April 14 & 28, May 12 & 26, June 9 & 23, July 7 & 21, August 4 & 18, and September 15 & 29.**
For further information call: **(201) 547-5666.**

MEETING MINUTES: Tuesday, March 12, 2002

The meeting opened at 7:50 PM. The nominations for the elections of the new Executive Board were reviewed and amended.

There was an update by **Police Officer Ed Rutkowski** concerning crime in our area. Numerous complaints were made about a series of attacks that occurred on Mountain Road. Next, **Anna Rose Smith** of the NID gave a status report on previously reported complaints and recorded new ones, including trash dumping on Mountain Road and the repeat shattering of the plexiglass cover of Park bulletin board, located at Palisade and Bowers.

Our guest speaker was **Joe Napolitano** from the Department of Recreation, who filled in for Director Bob Hurley. Joe explained the variety of organized activities for youngsters and young adults scheduled in both Pershing Field and Washington Park for this summer. The Department is currently registering children between the ages of 5 to 18 years for baseball, softball and bowling. He described new activities, including boxing, football clinic, aerobics and kick-boxing. Joe also stated that the Department is making plans for a summer camp to be situated at Pershing Field this summer.

Clif Steinbring provided an update on the numerous development projects in our area.The **Jehovah's Witness** project proposed for New York Avenue and South Street appears to be on hold and the **Hope Center's** (affiliated with the Calvary Church on Thorne Street) plans for renovation of the old firehouse on Palisade Avenue has run into contractual problems.There was a thorough discussion of the **Cliff Side** project proposed for the old book bindery below the cliff on Paterson Plank Road. Clif described a meeting with both the Hoboken developers and City planners. The main points at issue centered around the project's need to adhere to the height and setbacks restrictions of the new **Steep Slope Ordinance** and its detrimental impact on the Paterson Plank and Mountain Roads traffic. At this time, the developers have not officially submitted an application to the Planning Board. Member **Steven Carr** provided an excellent opportunity for the members to visualize this project by providing photographs of the existing property with computer generated images of the proposed renovations. The comparison of these two images accurately demonstrated the project's impact upon the Palisade Cliffs.

Finally there was discussion about the **Gateway** project currently under construction at 101 Marshall Street in Hoboken. It appears that the developers never properly noticed the City of Jersey City or Hudson County about the variance hearings. Several people, including the members of the **Pohlmann Hall** condominium association, volunteered to attend the next Hoboken City Council meeting to speak out against this project.[*For more information, see CommunityUpdates in this issue.*]

Next there was a discussion and selection of dates for the upcoming spring activities: the Parks clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, April 27 and the Park Fair is scheduled for Saturday, June 1.[*For further information about these activities, see the clean-up article on the frontpage and the Park Fair advertisement in this issue.*]

The last order of business was the annual elections. The nominations were closed and the candidates disclosed their current affiliations to inform the membership of any potential conflicts of interest. Then the elections were held. Our new Chairperson **Clif Steinbring** was elected by a vote of 14 to 4 over longtime Chair **Vito Brunetti.** The offices of Vice-Chair and Secretary went to **Margi Daly** and incumbent **Maria Tuzzo,** unopposed. The office of Treasurer went to **Vito Brunetti** over **Tim Gilliard** by a vote of 12 to 6. And **Doris Brown** was elected Sgt.-at-Arms by a vote to 12 to 4 over **Joe Sadowsky.**

Maria Tuzzo, Secretary

EASTER EGG HUNT

On Saturday, March 30th, RNA held its third annual egg hunt for the neighborhood children in Riverview-Fisk Park. The event was coordinated with **Police Officer Mike Sherbeneau** of the North District. Twenty-five children participated to win 10 baskets laden with easter goodies. Local chocolatier **Lee Sims** donated the baskets, along with 50 plastic eggs filled with jelly beans and 25 chocolate bunnies.

Contribute to Your Community Newsletter

Tell us what you think about this newsletter. Send articles, opinions, announcements, poems and recipes to: RNA, 469 Palisade Avenue. Next newsletter deadline is: **April 26th.**

RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
469 PALISADE AVENUE
JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY 07307

FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

Get Involved with Your Community &
Meet Your Neighbors
at RNA's next meeting
on Tuesday, April 9th at 7:15 PM

NON PROFIT
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07302
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CAR.-RT. PRESORT

COMING EVENTS

NJT MEETING: Monday April 8th, 7:30 PM
Organized by the Hoboken Environmental Committee
Location: 720 Monroe Street, Hoboken
Agenda: **Light Rail Station proposed for Congress Street/9th Street**

RNA MEETING: Tuesday, April 9th, 7:15 PM
Location: Harbor View Health Care Center

* *GUEST SPEAKER:* **Bob Hurley, Dir., Department of Recreation,** who will speak about summer sports activities in Riverview-Fisk Park

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SPRING CLEAN-UP: Saturday, April 27th, 9:00 AM
Organizing Location: Riverview-Fisk Park gazebo: Ogden Avenue
Clean-up Sites: Riverview-Fisk Park, Janet Moore Park,& Mountain Road.
Volunteers Needed. For more information, call **Joe** at **792-4748.**

DUMPSTER WEEKEND: Sat., April 27th - Sun. Apr. 28th
Locations: Griffith Street and Cuneo Place (Between Ogden & Palisade Aves.)
[For more information, see Frontpage article.]